

Filed for intro on 02/14/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 462

By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ted Russell upon being named a finalist for the 2000 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Mr. Ted Russell, a native of Hamblen County; he has been selected as a finalist for the highly acclaimed *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award (TMQDA) for 2000; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Carson-Newman College, Mr. Russell began his illustrious career in automotive sales in 1965; he entered the profession as a new car salesman and his outstanding efforts and countless contributions earned him a position as general manager; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, he bought a failing dealership with no down payment; his skill and astute management abilities helped to create a successful business, and he then purchased Ted Russell Ford in Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell, now President of Ted Russell Ford-Isuzu, is highly respected and admired by customers and employees alike; he feels rewarded by his extremely qualified and loyal employee team and graciously credits the success of his company to their efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Automotive Association has nominated Mr. Russell for the 31st annual TMQDA; and

WHEREAS, this acclaimed award is sponsored by *TIME* Magazine in association with Goodyear and in cooperation with the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA); the TMQDA recognizes outstanding new car dealers for exceptional performance in their dealerships and for distinguished community service; and

WHEREAS, the finalists are selected by an experienced panel of faculty members from the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration, and in recognition of the University's participation, an annual grant of scholarship funds is provided to the business school in the names of the sponsors and all TMQDA participants; and

WHEREAS, despite stiff competition from numerous outstanding dealers across the nation, Mr. Russell was selected as one of the top five finalists from a pool of 64 dealers who were chosen from among more than 20,500 dealers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell and the four other finalists were honored at the opening business meeting of the year's NADA convention; more than 20,000 individuals in the automobile industry were present to witness this distinguished event; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Ted Russell still finds time to lend his stalwart support to the community; he serves with acumen and alacrity on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee A and I Fair, and is a trustee of Carson-Newman College where he serves on the Athletic Committee and Student Affairs Committee; and

WHEREAS, he is a valued and devoted member of his church, serving as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, he also proudly participates in such notable causes as the "Race for the Cure" which raises money for cancer research and increases awareness about cancer in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Ted Russell is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Drama; he is the proud father of a daughter, Dawn, and devoted grandfather of two; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ted Russell for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. Ted Russell for his exceptional leadership in the state of Tennessee and for being named a finalist for the 2000 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award. We extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.